

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 15 and 18 as shown on the following pages. Material inserted is indicated by underlining (insertion) and material deleted is indicated by strike-out (~~deletion~~).

1-14 (Canceled).

15. (Currently amended) A feed composition for crustaceans or fish comprising a feedstuff additive, the feedstuff additive a) being prepared from a gram-negative bacteria extract containing lipopolysaccharides, by purifying the extract with an anion exchange resin, subjecting the purified extract to gel filtration in the presence of a surface-active agent to recover low molecular weight LPS-containing fractions wherein the high molecular weight LPS is removed, b) having a molecular weight of  $5000 \pm 2000$  as measured by SDS-PAGE method using a protein marker, c) being substantially free of high molecular weight lipopolysaccharide, d) containing a low molecular weight lipopolysaccharide as an effective component and e) capable of activating immunity or preventing infection in crustaceans or fish; wherein the infection is a disease selected from the group consisting of: acute viremia of crustaceans, their vivrio diseases, parasitosis or mycosis; iridovirus infectious diseases of fish, their rhabdovirus diseases, neutronecrosis, infectious hemopoietic organ necrosis, psuedotuberculosis, streptococcal diseases, enterococcus diseases, vivrio diseases, cold-water disease, Pseudomonas diseases, gliding bacteria diseases and Saprolegnia diseases.

16. (Previously Presented) A feed composition according to claim 15, wherein the high molecular weight lipopolysaccharide is one having a molecular weight of at least 8,000.
17. (Canceled).
18. (Currently Amended) A method for activating immunity or preventing infection in crustaceans or fish comprising administering an effective amount of a feed for crustaceans or fish comprising a feedstuff additive, the feedstuff additive a) being prepared from a gram-negative bacteria extract containing lipopolysaccharides, by purifying the extract with an anion exchange resin, subjecting the purified extract to gel filtration in the presence of a surface-active agent to recover low molecular weight LPS-containing fractions whereby the high molecular weight LPS is removed, b) having a molecular weight of  $5000 \pm 2000$  as measured by SDS-PAGE method using a protein marker, c) being substantially free of high molecular weight lipopolysaccharide, d) containing a low molecular weight lipopolysaccharide as an effective component and e) capable of activating immunity or preventing infection in crustaceans or fish.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the feed further comprises a carrier.
20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the gram-negative bacteria are those pertaining to the genus Pantoea.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the gram-negative bacteria are *Pantoea agglomerans*.
22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the infection is a disease selected from the group consisting of: acute viremia of crustaceans, their vivrio diseases, parasitosis or mycosis; iridovirus infectious diseases of fish, their rhabdovirus diseases, neuronecrosis, infectious hemopoietic organ necrosis, psuedotuberculosis, streptococcal diseases, enterococcus diseases, vivrio diseases, cold-water disease, *Pseudomonas* diseases, gliding bacteria diseases and *Saprolegnia* diseases.
23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the high molecular weight lipopolysaccharide is one having a molecular weight of at least 8,000.
24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the feedstuff additive is provided in a concentration between 1 and 1000 µg.
25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the feedstuff additive is provided in a concentration between 1 and 1000 µg per kg of body weight.
26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the feedstuff additive is provided in a concentration between 0.000001 to 0.001% by weight of said feed.